

**From:** Josephine Hingston [mailto:josephine.hingston@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:05 AM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Support for H.636

Good morning, Ms. Ketchel,

Would you be so kind as to forward the below to all members of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Committee?

Many thanks,  
Josephine Hingston

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Vermont Legislators, Committee members, neighbors:

I am writing to strongly recommend passing H.636. I am also fully in support of H.262, H.336, and H.590. I cannot state strongly enough my shock and disgust that killing derbies are considered an allowable practice for the management of wildlife.

I am writing also underline the importance of integrated management practices for predators - they are not pests or "nuisance wildlife" as biological studies of animal behavior and ecosystem function continue to show. Banning coyote hunting extermination rallies needs to happen in 2018 - please stop pandering to the worst and most barbaric hunters in our state.

Best wildlife management practices in the treatment of predators continue to be revised and often utterly reversed (as should be the case with backward practice). I am disappointed to see that Vermont is not among the leaders in adopting, exploring, and perhaps even pioneering wildlife management approaches that seek to develop human civilization into something that doesn't wantonly destroy and poison its own world.

We (rightfully) police our slaughterhouses to ensure a humane, quick death: my local slaughterhouse was fined and suspended twice last year last for taking more than 10 or 20 minutes to slaughter animals. Wild creatures are held in traps for hours in the best case, or days. Or the quicker option: they're torn apart by packs of dogs after being chased for miles.

What sort of an example is being set? How on earth is the ideal of animal welfare twisted to accommodate current trapping practices and regulation in Vermont? If hunters are hunting for food, then perhaps they should be subject to similar anti-cruelty regulations? These contests seem to cater to hunters who hunt in order to slaughter, a recreational activity that seeks to destroy for no sound ecological or economic purpose - is this really the kind of hunting Vermont intends to encourage?

We enjoy our reputation as a green, ecologically conscious state, setting an example that is worth following. This must continue.

Multiple species like coyote, fisher, fox, otter, muskrat, bobcat, and soon, I guess, lynx - not to mention incidentals like family pets - are being treated like garbage, subject to torture, to be exterminated without regard. This must change.

H.636, H.336, H.262 and H.590 are pieces of legislation that I fully support as first steps in Vermont's evolution in wildlife management, and I am heartened to see these issues under consideration by your committee.

Please do let me know how you intend to review and revise current and future treatment of this matter. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Josephine Hingston  
Springfield, VT

**From:** Colleen Schuster [mailto:caseyjonesvt1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 8:34 AM  
**To:** Fred Baser; Christopher Bray; David Sharpe; Claire Ayer; Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** trapping

Dear Bristol Legislators,

I am very concerned and disappointed in Louis Porter's refusal to support common sense legislation that doesn't even seek to limit or ban trapping. I don't understand why he continues to support this inhumane, outdated, barbaric practice. The general consensus of the public is to end this practice in Vermont. Please reconsider your position and put an end to this now.

Sincerely,

Colleen C. Schuster  
Bristol, VT

**From:** Amber Chambers [mailto:brindleridge14@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 9:21 AM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Vote NO! On H636

After reading over this bill, I feel that the majority of this bill is not needed and am wondering why you would sponsor such a waste of time and money, we do not need this bill as a state. Please Vote NO on H636.

Thank you  
Amber Chambers  
Lowell, Vt.

**From:** Sandy Butkovich [mailto:sbutkovich57@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:27 AM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Michael Marcotte; Gary Viens; Robert Starr; John Rodgers  
**Subject:** Coyote killing contests

Hello,

I am writing to implore you to support bill H.636. I am sickened to think that these animal's lives mean so little that hunters devise games to kill them. What are they teaching our children? There is no science to support that these hunts are beneficial to the coyote population. There is also no science to support an open season. Please support a closed season. These animals and their families deserve the same respect that other animals are given.

Thank you.

Sandy Butkovich

**From:** Stephanie Bourdelle [mailto:stephanieb638@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 11:35 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Please consider a regulated Coyote Hunting Season in Vermont

**Attention:** Fish & Wildlife's Committee Assistant [CKetchel@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:CKetchel@leg.state.vt.us)

Dear Committee Assistant Christy Ketchel, I ask that your Committee **introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban gratuitous coyote killing contests.**

At 10 am on January 25th at the Statehouse the **Coyote Report** meeting had in attendance Protect Our Wildlife VT (POW) and others, advocating for a commonsense policy that would ban Vermont's open killing season on coyotes and also ban killing contests. The Committee in attendance consisted of:

- Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kim Royar, Biologist, Fur Bearing Project Leader, Department of Fish & Wildlife

The meeting began with Commissioner Louis Porter's (Fish & Wildlife Department) testimony to the Fish & Wildlife Committee (legislature). In his testimony, he acknowledged that coyotes are an important part of the ecosystem and that hunting them does nothing to reduce the overall population or to "protect" the deer herd. **Despite this, his Department still supports the open killing season and refuses to endorse legislation to ban coyote killing contests.**

Protect Our Wildlife VT (POW) refuted some of Fish & Wildlife's/Louis Porter's testimony during a hearing to the legislature at 5 pm on January 25th. In POW's testimony, Brenna Galdenzi, *President of POW VT*, referenced social media images of gratuitous violence inflicted upon Vermont's coyotes--you can view those images in the entered pdf document for the testimony of 1-25-18 re: Bill H.60 (warning: this pdf file has graphic images): titled: W~Gerri Huck~Coyote Hunting in Vermont~1-25-2018.pdf.

### **The Fish & Wildlife Department's Unwillingness to Seek Compromise**

The Fish & Wildlife Department is content with the status quo despite massive opposition from the general public.

We are concerned that Commissioner Porter did not answer questions posed to him by Committee members in a direct way at that hearing. For example, Representative Deen asked him about the wasteful killing of coyotes since their pelts have no value. Porter went on to say that coyote pelts are very valuable, but did not acknowledge the fact that **coyote pelts have ZERO**

**value when they're not prime (i.e., outside of the winter season).**

Coyotes who are killed during the open season are often left to rot in the woods. Porter actually told the Committee that he's heard that people eat coyotes (as a way to convince legislators that killing coyotes isn't wasteful). His anecdotal answers and avoidance of answering questions fully leaves us concerned.

Representative Beyor asked Porter what happens if there's no open season and a farmer's livestock is killed in the Spring. Porter failed to remind the legislator that landowners always have the right to kill coyotes who are preying on their livestock. POW made sure to talk to Rep. Beyor about that after the meeting.

**Although the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department shows great reluctance to support long-overdue policy changes, the legislature is interested.**

**I ask that the Fish & Wildlife Committee introduce a regulated coyote hunting season and ban coyote killing contests.**

Sincerely, Stephanie Bourdelle

**From:** HALE IRWIN [mailto:hale.irwin@comcast.net]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 12:24 PM

**To:** Christy Ketchel; Protect Our Wildlife VT

**Cc:** Hale Irwin

**Subject:** Bad Amendment Proposal on H636

Dear Members of F&W Committee

I am dismayed to hear that Rep. Willhoit is proposing an Amendment to H636. I have sent this message to him. Please do not let the Bill become gutted !

*Your Amendment stating that coyote killing contests would be OK if put on by Private Groups. This is ludicrous as it completely guts the purpose of the bill.*

*As an attorney I would expect you would have a good handle on ethics and morality. The wanton killing of any animal is unethical and morally wrong. Coyotes are ignorantly hated and blamed for being wild animals playing their part in the environment. The more man kills them the more they reproduce - the more mouths they need to feed and their families become disturbed. These creatures, smarter than humans, naturally limit their population dependent on natural food supply and territory. Killing them destroys this!*

*Now back to moral and ethics... the cult of happy coyote killers ignores knowledge and science - they get a thrill out of killing. They leave these creatures dead to rot in field and forest.*

*Please study this issue and don't kowtow to these thrill killers! **Today is coyotes; will***

*it be a mall or another school next!*

*Thank you for your attention  
Sincerely and Semper Fi  
Hale Irwin*

**From:** ashley prout [mailto:ashleyprout@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:09 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment!!! PLEASE!

Vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

The Willhoit amendment is 100% misguided and wrong. How sad that this would be introduced at the last minute. Shame!

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING AND PAYING ATTENTION!

THANK YOU!

Ashley

Ashley Prout McAvey  
144 Shelburne-Hinesburg Road  
Shelburne, VT 05482  
Home Office: 802-264-9640  
Cell Phone: 802-598-9428  
[www.ivoryfreevermont.org](http://www.ivoryfreevermont.org)  
#ivoryfreevermont

**From:** John Peaveler [mailto:jpeaveler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:10 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H636

I favor passing H636 to ban coyote killing contests. Every single shred of science demonstrates trying to exterminate coyote through extreme violence only pushes them to adapt more. I find it morally repugnant that Vermont allows this to happen in the name of good old family tradition and/or science (depends who you ask).

Vermonts are really getting fed up with poor management of our wildlife.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

John Peaveler

West Fairlee

**From:** Patti Smith [mailto:patti@beec.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:16 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Willhoit amendment

I am strongly in favor of the ban on coyote hunting contests—the Willhoit amendment will render it meaningless.

Sincerely,

Patti Smith

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Patti Smith, Naturalist  
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center  
PO Box 2318 West Brattleboro, VT 05303  
(802) 257-5785 [www.BEEC.org](http://www.BEEC.org)  
[thefretfulporcupine.blogspot.com](http://thefretfulporcupine.blogspot.com)

**From:** robertasum@aol.com [mailto:robertasum@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** PLEASE ask all legislators to oppose the Willhoit amendment

You have heard from many Vermonters, like myself, about the need to totally ban coyote killing contests. Please vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment. There is no justification to weaken this bill so that hunters can kill coyotes as long as there are no public announcements about these activities.

Respectfully,

Roberta Summers  
West Bolton, MA

**From:** Leslie Blow [mailto:lblowvt@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Please vote yes on H.636

Ms. Ketchel,

Please vote yes on H.636 and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

Thank you,

Leslie Blow

From: Daniel Galdenzi [mailto:dangaldenzi@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:20 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel; rawestman@gmail.com  
Subject: YES on H.636

Please vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

Dan Galdenzi  
802.585.5042

**From:** Louise Michaels [mailto:michaels.louise@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:25 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Vote Yes and oppose coyote contest

Please  
Vote Yes and oppose coyote contest

Louise Michaels  
Notes from Shelburne, Vermont

From: lynn andrews [mailto:lynmisha@me.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:29 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel; Alison Clarkson; Susan Buckholz  
Subject: H.636

Please vote YES on bill H.636 to stop the unsafe, unnecessary and highly controversial COYOTE KILLING contests in Vermont.

An avid fan of sport hunting, Rep. Janssen Willhoit is attempting to overturn public sentiment in order to honor the blood sport desires of his friends and constituents by creating a loophole to this bill.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Andrews  
North Pomfret Resident

**From:** Vanessa Brown [mailto:vlbrown81@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:30 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment...

...and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

Thank you,

*Vanessa Brown*

Attorney at Law

PO Box 159

Bethel, VT 05032

802-229-0087

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vanessa-brown-8883ba38>

From: Jess Russell [mailto:jesscole76@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:33 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Vote yes on H636

Hello,

I am writing to ask you to please vote yes on H 636, and to not accept the recent amendment making only public coyote hunts illegal. Hunting contests are vile and completely wrong in any form, especially private hunts.

Our wildlife needs to be respected and managed in a scientific, humane manner. Hunting contests are the antithesis of this - please vote yes on H636.

Thank you!

J Russell

**From:** Diane Walker [mailto:dianewalker.722@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:35 PM

**To:** Christy Ketchel

**Subject:** Please Vote YES on H.636!

I oppose the Willhoit amendment and hope you do, too!

Thank you!

Diane Walker

Burlington, Vermont

**From:** Callahan, Renate M. [mailto:Renate.Callahan@jsc.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:39 PM

**To:** Matthew Hill; Daniel Noyes; Christy Ketchel; rawestman@gmail.com

**Cc:** Protect Our Wildlife VT; Glenn Callahan (gfraserc@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Vote "Yes" on H.636

**Importance:** High

Matt, Dan, Rich,

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us last week at the Statehouse and being sympathetic to the plight of Vermont wildlife. I was encouraged by your support on an

unequivocal ban of coyote killing contests; which in truth is the only logical and sane measure to take.

So it is now with jaw-dropping dismay to learn that there has been made an attempt by Rep. Willhoit at weakening this already rather too loose bill further by outlawing only those contests that are advertised to the public. Seriously? Without a closed season –as strongly requested and recommended to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife on Jan 25- coyotes are still up against a minority of blood-thirsty thugs as it is. Plus, many of these contests happen out of public sight which would make law enforcement of this amendment difficult if not impossible. Acknowledging the biological and ecological value and importance of coyotes in a healthy and balanced eco-system I urge to stand your ground against this idiocy and vote Yes on the bill as is.

Thank you,

***Renate Callahan***

**From:** Kimberly W Findlay [mailto:farafieldfarm@gmavt.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:46 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Coyote contest

Please leave H.636 as is and vote YES on it without Rep. Willhoit's ridiculous amendment.

Thank you,

Kim Findlay

**From:** Peggy Larson [mailto:meowvet1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:46 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H 636

Please vote "Yes" on house bill 636.

Please oppose the Willhoit amendment.

Thanks!

Peggy W Larson, DVM MS JD  
1876 Mountain View Road  
Williston, VT 05495

(802) 363-1332

**From:** Lydie Bomblies [mailto:bomblieslydie@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:47 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** YES on H.636 without the Willhoit Amendment!

To the Fish And Wildlife Committee,

My family and I strongly oppose any form of trapping. This cruel "sport" should be outlawed altogether. H.636 is already a step in the right direction. We are alarmed to hear that the Willhoit Amendment would weaken this bill.

We urge you to drop this amendment and to vote YES on the original form of the bill.

We are appalled that here in Vermont in this day and age we still have such a lack of sensible, civilized and humane legislation.

Please vote YES on H.636!

Thank you.

Karl and Alida Bomblies and family.  
Huntington

From: Kathleen Wilson [mailto:kittywilson@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:48 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel; jessupkimberly@gmail.com; Francis Brooks  
Cc: Ann Cummings; Anthony Pollina; Janet Ancel  
Subject: Please support H.636 and oppose the Willhoit Amendment

Dear Legislators,

I hope that you will strongly support H.636 - but please do not support Rep. Willhoit's amendment, which would weaken the bill terribly. Coyote killing contests are vehemently opposed by thousands of Vermonters, and keeping these horrible contests a secret defeats the purpose of this bill. I have a right to know what is going on in my state. A watered down version of this bill is unacceptable.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of Vermont, including our beautiful wildlife. Let coyotes killing contests be banned forevermore. We need to stand on the right side of history.

With gratitude,

Kathleen Wilson

**From:** Jane Kleinsinger [mailto:janebearhillfarm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:50 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H636

I was just informed that Rep Janssen Willhoit proposed an amendment to H636 which would still allow coyote killing contests under certain circumstances. I hope you will support H636 and ask that you oppose Representative Willhoit's amendment.

Jane Kleinsinger  
1234 Bear Hill Road  
Brookfield, Vt 05060

**From:** kerri and bill [mailto:wkedmunds@myfairpoint.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:52 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Bill 636

To Whom It May Concern:

I heard there is an amendment to Bill 636 that would make it coyote contests illegal only if they were advertised. This would make the whole issue not worth pursuing, of course. Also, Fish and Wildlife have made the Bill for reporting pets caught in traps only be reported if they are wearing obvious identification. This would mean that absolutely no cats would be reported caught in traps because it is unsafe to put an outside-roaming cat in a collar. Both these proposals are ridiculous and would totally nullify both things that are trying to be accomplished, which is accountability of the Fish and Wildlife Department and those people they constantly defend. Please see these amendments for what they are, a total waste of all of our time and yours to try to make Vermont a safer and kinder place for us all to live.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kerry and William Edmunds  
Craftsbury Common, Vermont 05827

From: Lisa Raffael [mailto:lisaraffael@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:52 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: H636

Dear Sirs

Please vote yes on H636 and oppose Representative Jansen Wilhoit's amendment to weaken this bill and any other efforts to weaken the bill to ban coyote hunts.

Thank you

Lisa J Raffael  
55 Robinson Parkway  
Burlington, VT 05401  
802-399-4594

From: Teal Church [mailto:goodkarmarescue@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 1:56 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: H 636

Hello

I'm witting in hopes you'll vote yes on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

Thank you,  
Teal

Goodkarmarescue.org  
802.595.5110  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** mary ann young [mailto:mafulleryoung@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** vote

Please vote yes on H.636, please,  
thank you,  
mary ann fuller young

**From:** Norland [mailto:norlandnorken@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H.636

Fish & Wildlife Committee,

Because:

- a. Ethical hunting is good for sport, food, and deer herd management, *and*
- b. It is the role of Fish and Wildlife to encourage respect for wildlife while regulating hunting, *and*
- c. Coyote killing contests are *not* ethical hunting and are disrespectful to wildlife, *and*
- d. Coyote killing contests give hunting a bad name and besmirch the mission of VT Fish and Wildlife,

**I urge you to vote YES on H.366** and oppose the Willhoit amendment.

As for the Willhoit amendment itself, It seems to me highly unethical, not to mention illogical, to consider banning an action and at the same time providing **it with a back door!** This makes no sense. **Oppose the Willhoit amendment.**

Norma Norland

**From:** Annie Guion [mailto:annie@windhamcountyhumane.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:08 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Jeanette White; Emily Long; Becca Balint  
**Subject:** H.636

Please vote yes on H.636 and PLEASE oppose the Willhoit amendment which basically negates the whole purpose of the legislation.

**Annie Guion**  
Executive Director  
Windham County Humane Society  
*Serving Southern Vermont since 1887*  
PO Box 397, Brattleboro, VT 05302  
802-254-2232 phone  
802-254-3680 fax  
[www.windhamcountyhumane.org](http://www.windhamcountyhumane.org)

**From:** Sandy Butkovich [mailto:sbutkovich57@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:16 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; John Rodgers; Gary Viens; Michael Marcotte; Robert Starr  
**Subject:** Bill H.636 Again

Hello,

Re: Coyote Killing Contests

I previously wrote you to implore you to support the above bill. It has just come to my attention that Rep. Janssen Willhoit has proposed an amendment to this bill which would make these contests illegal only if they are advertised to the public. What? I can't even wrap my head around that thought. What does whether the contest is made public or not have anything to do with this issue? These animals will still be killed as part of some sick senseless killing game. I think you will be walking down a slippery slope if you allow the killing of animals to be hidden in secrecy. This is wrong on so many levels.

I would again like to add that I support a closed season on coyotes. Can we please give them the respect that we give our other animals?

Thank you.

Sandy Butkovich  
Newport City

**From:** Karen and Mike Kuranda [mailto:mjk.kuranda@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:22 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H 636 bill

I urge you to vote YES for the original H 636 without the Willhoit amendment.

We need to ban all coyote killing contests not just the publicly advertised ones. Private coyote hunting contests should also be banned.

Karen and Mike Kuranda  
323 The Lane  
Stamford, VT 05352

**From:** Janice Nadworny [mailto:jnadworny@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:27 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Ban all coyote killing contests - even private ones

I'm writing to urge you to support H. 636b in its current form. I oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

Thank you,  
Janice Nadworny  
Hinesburg, VT

**From:** Katherine Plante [mailto:ozzuriocha@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:33 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Coyotes

To whom it may,  
It would be great if you would consider voting yes on H.636 and opposing the Willhoit amendment!

Thanks for your time  
Kate plante

**From:** Anne Jameson [mailto:annejameson@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:36 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Vote on H.636

Dear Fish & Wildlife committee members,

Please vote YES on H.636 AS WRITTEN and without the Wilhoit amendment. The coyote killing contests must be STOPPED, not just moved 'underground' so that only those contests that are advertised to the public are illegal. Many of these contests happen out of public sight; this amendment would greatly weaken this bill and make law enforcement difficult. The lives of coyotes should not be 'out of sight, out of mind'!

Thank you for voting on H.636 as written and passed out of committee.

Anne Jameson  
Marshfield

From: Betsy Cooke [mailto:tharpa.tindzo@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 2:38 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: H636

Vote yes on H.636 to ban coyote hunting contests. I have seen multiple coyote bodies hanging from soffets occasionally and the sight sickens me. For me the sound of coyotes calling to each other in the early dawn hours is thrilling. The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has admitted that coyotes are not a threat to deer and their killing seems senseless. Can the Wilhoit amendment. Betsy Cooke, Walden resident

**From:** Helen Fields [mailto:hgreenefields@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 2:50 PM  
**To:** Laura Sibilgia; Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** 636 save coyote ecosystem

Please do NOT allow weakening of this bill with amendments from Wilhoit.  
STamford Vermont

**From:** Polly McArthur [mailto:pmcgarfield@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:03 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; David Yacovone; Gary Nolan  
**Subject:** H.636 Coyote Bill Vote Yes

We urge you to please vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests. Thank you

Charles and Polly McArthur

From: Deb Hawkins [mailto:thehawk6767@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 3:00 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: H.636

It is imperative that you vote yes for H.636 and oppose Wilhoit and similar ammendments!

Deb Hawkins

**From:** Joyce [mailto:Packof5@kingcon.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Richard Lawrence; Richard Lawrence; martyfeltus@gmail.com  
**Subject:** H.636  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I understand that a last minute amendment has been attempted by Rep. Janssen Willhoit that will weaken the legislation to ban coyote killing contests. His amendment will make it so that only those contests that are advertised to the public be illegal. Many of these contests happen out of public sight, so his amendment would greatly weaken this bill and make law enforcement difficult.

Coyote killing contests are not aligned with the culture of Vermont, nor are they “sport” or “hunting”, they are the mass slaughter of an animal that is vital to the healthy eco-system in our state. Killing should NEVER be for thrill and that’s just what these so-called contests promote. Many of the people who partake in the wholesale slaughter of coyotes post their conquests on line and brag about how much suffering and physical damage they caused the animals they derive great pleasure in massacring. We must all be reminded that almost all of the serial killers started out by torturing and killing animals. Is that the Vermont we want to leave our children?

Sincerely,

Joyce Littlefield  
POB 1393  
Lyndonville  
802-535-6474

**From:** Catherine Gott [mailto:cegott@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:09 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Heidi Scheuermann  
**Subject:** H.636

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to ask the Fish and Wildlife Committee and local representatives to vote YES on H.636, to ban coyote killing contests. These contests do not represent the values of Vermonters, goes against the ethics of hunting, and does not represent proper and ethical management not our wildlife.

Animals should not be killed for the sake of contest to see who can kill the largest or the most. Killing contests are no different than dog fighting or cockfighting. It's all about body counts and has nothing to do with the values that hunters profess they stand for. In fact, many, if not most, of these animals are thrown away like trash. Mass killings of animals is anti-ecological. Research has shown that mass killings of coyotes disrupts the social structure and can trigger an increase in breeding and produce more coyotes. Coyotes play a large role in controlling rodent populations and other species considered "pests". The F&W even acknowledge that coyotes play an important role in our ecosystem...so how can we allow these animals to be killed in the name of a killing contest?

The Willhoit amendment makes no sense. It's intent is to take this unethical event underground. Again, killing contests are cruel, unethical and do not represent what Vermonters stand for. Nor do these contests represent any respect for our wildlife or the value of hunting.

Wildlife belong to all Vermonters not just a minority of Vermonters that view our wildlife as something to shoot for fun and for a contest. These contests represent a disrespect for life and a wanton waste of our wildlife and a lack of proper management of our ecosystems. I want and expect my voice to be heard by my representatives and the people that have been appointed to protect and conserve our wildlife for All Vermonters. Please vote YES on H.636 as it stands and do not allow the Willhoit amendment to weaken the values Vermont and our respect for our wildlife.

Thank you,  
Catherine Gott

**From:** Jane Hoffman [mailto:jehoffman@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Vote YES on H 636 and oppose the amendment to weaken the bill  
**Importance:** High

**Please ask representatives and members to vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.**

**This amendment would make it so that only those contests that are advertised to the public be illegal. This is preposterous. Many of these contests happen out of public sight, so his amendment would greatly weaken this bill and make law enforcement difficult.**

**Jane Hoffman  
Greensboro, VT**

**From:** Jerry Ralya [mailto:jerryralya@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:21 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** No to the Willhoit Amendment

Please vote yes on H.636, and vote no on the amendment from Janssen Willhoit, which would weaken the legislation to ban coyote killing contests.

Jerry Ralya

From: Claudia Mucklow [mailto:claudiamucklow@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 3:25 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: H.636

Dear Members of the Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee,

With great concern have I learned of a proposed amendment to H. 636 by Rep. Janssen Willhoit regarding coyote killing contests. This is simply an attempt by a minority of the hunting community to be able to continue the wanton killing that is denounced by most ethical hunters.

If accepted it would basically render the coyote killing contest ban ineffective and unenforceable. I implore you to reject this amendment and support the bill as written.

Sincerely,

Claudia Mucklow

Charlotte, VT

**From:** Kathi Squires [mailto:klsquires6@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:31 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** YES

Please vote YES on H.636. Forget Rep Willhoit amendment.

Thank you.

Kathi Squires

**From:** Jim White [mailto:jimbylakec@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:43 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Cc:** Jessica Brumsted; Webb Kate  
**Subject:** H.636

Hi Christy, please pass this email to Committee members.

We want to express our opposition to the amendment by Rep. Willhoit to H.636 that attempts to gut a ban on coyote killing contests. Coyote hunters, a tiny minority of Vermonters, in collaboration with Department leadership have already managed to thwart the public's request to create a regulated season for coyotes. Another sad day for transparent government. Ending all killing contests is the minimum we can do this session and it should be done if we have any sense of decency left. Please resist the tradition of excluding non-hunters from participation in decisions about wildlife and vote yes to 636. Many Vermonters are paying close attention to this bill.

Thanks you,

Joy Congdon  
Jim White  
Shelburne

**From:** Rosalind Finn [mailto:rosalind.e.finn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 3:46 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Bill H.636

Please would you vote YES on the above bill - H.636 to ban coyote killing contests. And also oppose the amendment proposed by Mr. Willhoit to weaken the bills.

We are meant to be a civilised state and mass killings of defenceless animals is certainly not civilised. It is mob mentality.

Thank you, Rosalind Finn.

**From:** Alice Silverman [mailto:alicehersheysilverman@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:01 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H636

Please vote yes on H636 and oppose the Willhoit amendment and any other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on Coyote killing contests

Thank you

Alice Silverman  
Montpelier VT

**From:** Lin Warren [mailto:lwarrenrt@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:16 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** YES on H.636 Bill

Hello,

I wanted to put my concern to you about senseless coyote killings and contests.

Please vote YES on H.636.

This needs to stop!

Lin Warren

**From:** toby powers [mailto:tobypowers@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:21 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** VOTE YES ON H 636 AND BAN COYOTE KILLING CONTESTS

I recently read that H 636 has an amendment that will weaken the current bill. There is no difference between cruelty to animals in public or private, cruelty is cruelty. Bloodsport in private and unadvertised is just as egregious as advertised killing contests, just less visible to the public. Please do not allow this bill to be watered down and difficult to enforce. This is not hunting, this is cruelty for entertainment purposes and the majority of Vermonters support the full ban of this type of behavior. Real hunters would be ashamed to be associated with these people who are attempting to label this bloodsport as hunting.

Toby Powers & Nilton Costa  
Winooski VT

From: Ann Owen [mailto:annowen.pub@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 4:22 PM  
To: Ann Pugh; Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Coyote bill #636

Please support this bill as originally submitted without amendments which weaken it. Coyote killing contests are inhumane and should be made illegal in the state of Vermont.

Thank ou.  
Ann Owen  
148 Chipman St  
South Burlington VT

**From:** K Cameron [mailto:kcameron914@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:29 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Cc:** curt.mccormack@gmail.com; Jill Krowinski  
**Subject:** Please oppose the Willhoit amendment to H. 636

Dear Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources Committee:

Keeping coyote slaughter out of sight is not the answer. There is opposition to coyote killing contests because it is a vicious blood sport, promotes wanton waste, and serves no useful conservation purpose. Rep. Willhoit's proposal to just keep this heinous and needless killing out of the public eye is not right. Secrecy is not a solution. Please oppose this amendment and vote yes on H. 636.

Thank you,  
Kristen Cameron  
Burlington, VT

From: Jeanette Malone [mailto:jmalone52@icloud.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 4:30 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel; Tim Ashe; Philip Baruth; Marcia Gardner; Debbie Ingram; Virginia Lyons  
Subject: VOTE YES H.636

Please Vote YES on H.636 and OPPOSE Willhoit's amendment to weaken the ban on horrific coyote contests.

Concerned Vermont Voter,  
Jeanette Malone  
Richmond, VT

**From:** Lynn Varin [mailto:lynn@varinweb.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Oppose the Rep Willhoits amendment to H.636

From: Gerri Huck [mailto:chordplay@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 5:05 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Yes on H.636

Dear Fish & Wildlife committee,  
I am writing this a few minutes after getting off a call with team members from around the U.S. Unfortunately, I had to explain what that sound was in the background. More gunfire? Yes, more gunfire.

Please vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment. I'm not sure what the point would be if H.636 passes with the amendment, other than to let the majority of Vermonters know that our voices do not matter.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,  
Gerri Huck

**From:** marc beaudette [mailto:marcbeaudette@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 5:06 PM  
**To:** Alison Clarkson; Alice Nitka; Charlie Kimbell; Christy Ketchel; Michael Yantachka  
**Subject:** please support bill H.636,

Hi all,  
Please vote yes on H.636, minus the Wilhoit amendment. Thank you.

Best Wishes

Marc Beaudette

**From:** Sharon [mailto:sbrowell@pshift.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 5:15 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H 636

I am so opposed as a landowner in Morrisville to any coyote killing contests, advertised or not!  
Please do not weaken this bill with any admendments. I encourage YES votes for H 636.  
Sharon Rowell

From: Joannah Ralston [mailto:insight.joannah@comcast.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 5:37 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Please pass this on immediately to all House Fish and Wildlife Committee members

Hello Christy,

I understand Rep. Willhoit has submitted an amendment to H.636 that would significantly weaken the ban on coyote killing contests by exempting contests hosted by private groups. This is horrifying and amounts to sanctioned privatized slaughter.

I support H.636 without the Willhoit amendment and I oppose ANY other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests. Please do not support this amendment.

Thank you,  
Joannah Ralston  
67 Aspen Circle  
Shelburne, VT  
802-985-3240

From: Lindsey Sergeant [mailto:lindseysergeant@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 5:45 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Animal cruelty

Hi there,  
Please vote YES to H.636!! Please oppose the Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.  
Just read those words - killing contest!?! Not okay!!

Lindsey Schneider

**From:** Tanya Sousa [mailto:tanyasousa@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 5:47 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Please Don't Weaken the Language...

Concerning the ban on coyote killing contests. Please vote YES on H.636 and to oppose the Willhoit amendment and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on

coyote killing contests. It really makes no difference if such contests are private or public - they're still the same "animal".

Please also pass this message on to all Committee members.

Thank you all for your time!

Tanya Sousa

Taxpayer in Coventry and Norton

**From:** Alexandra Pastor [mailto:w\_roma@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 5:49 PM

**To:** Christy Ketchel

**Subject:** NO to Willhoit's Amendment to H636

Dear Fish & Wildlife Committee,

It is with enormous disappointment that I read Rep. Willhoit's amendment to H636. To ban only publicly advertised coyote killing contests is pointless because many of these contests are local and not advertised, even though open to many people to participate. I have been following the coyote killing contest controversy in Vermont for many years now and was happy to see that finally a bill like H636 was making it's way to the House floor for a vote. Please vote against Rep. Willhoit's amendment. You'd be amazed at how many individuals come out to support the merciless targeting of the highly misrepresented and misunderstood coyote. Frankly any species, crows being another prime example in VT, that are used for target practice is really disrespectful of Vermont's wildlife. The amendment would deliberately undermine the purpose of H636. I absolutely understand hunting to eat, but I don't understand killing unlimited numbers of a specific species for fun and fun alone. They aren't eaten and just left out to decay in piles. This in turn creates other problems, like attracting other predators, which are often unwelcome by landowners.

Please SAY NO TO REP. WILLHOIT'S AMENDMENT and YES TO H636.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Alex Pastor

Barre City, VT

From: Patricia McGill [mailto:redhen@pshift.com]

Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 6:07 PM

To: Christy Ketchel

Subject: Request

Hello,

Please vote YES on H.636. Please oppose the Wilhoit amendment, along with any other attempts to water down the bill's ban on coyote-killing contests.

Thank you,

Patricia McGill

Kirby

**From:** larkshield@aol.com [mailto:larkshield@aol.com]

**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 6:11 PM

**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Please pass on to all on the Committee

**Please support H.636 without the Willhoit amendment, and oppose any other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests! Do not just ban PUBLIC killing contests. They will just go underground.**

Lark Shields  
Craftsbury, VT

**From:** Trevien Stanger [mailto:trevienstanger@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 6:11 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** vote on H.636

G'day,

I support a  
YES

vote  
on H.636 and

I

oppose the Willhoit amendment and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote killing contests.

**Let this vote go through.**

thank you,

**Trevien Stanger**  
**Richmond, VT**

From: Gloria Currie [mailto:gbcurre@myfairpoint.net]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 6:30 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Coyote slaughter yet again

Representative Willhoit's amendment is an outright attempt to circumvent any meaningful protection for coyotes. It is typical of the killing culture and a disgraceful picture of Vermonters. Please do the right and humane thing and end this slaughter. Advertised or not, slaughter is slaughter.

Thank you,

William & Gloria Currie  
Leicester, Vermont

**From:** Jennifer Haas [mailto:jeliztho1@frontier.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 6:38 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Bill H636

Dear Christy,

My husband and I are residents of Lowell, VT. We are in support of House bill 636 , WITHOUT the Willhoit amendment. We think nuisance trappers should be licensed and trained in humane options for the removal of nuisance wildlife. We are also supporting the ban of coyote killing contests. We think it should be required that trappers report when a domestic animal is snared in one of their traps. It is unconscionable to have it any other way. If you would pass this onto committee members it would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your attention,

Jennifer and Michael Haas

[1286 Hazen Notch Road](#), Lowell

**From:** b.flynn@myfairpoint.net [mailto:b.flynn@myfairpoint.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 7:04 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Killing contests

Please support bill to ban ALL killing contests. We are better than this savagery. Thank you.

Brian Flynn  
Craftsbury Common, Vt

**From:** isabelw@myfairpoint.net [mailto:iwirth939@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 7:53 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Willhoit Amendment

Please vote yes on H.636 and oppose the Willhoit Amendment and all efforts to weaken the ban on coyote killing contests. Coyotes are an integral part of our ecosystem and wildlife and the brutal and inhumane treatment by hunters and trappers is shameful and sad. Please help to protect the animals and wildlife that live in this beautiful state. It is disappointing that many of the Vermonters who have lived here and hunted here for generations don't understand why humane treatment of animals in the wild is important for all wildlife as it is for civilized Americans

Please put a stop to Wildlife Hunting Contests.  
Thank-you.  
Isabel Wirth

**From:** Janice Stearns [mailto:jstearns918@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 7:56 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Coyote killing - wildlife bill

[Vote YES on H636](#)  
[Janice D. Stearns](#)  
[Middlebury](#)

From: Sophie Bowater [mailto:protectanimals26@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2018 8:06 PM  
To: Christy Ketchel  
Subject: Coyote

Please vote to protect Coyotes from the inhumane hunting contests. Vote yes to h.636. It makes me so sad that there are so many people out there that feel Coyotes deserve this horrible treatment .  
Sincerely,  
Sophie Bowater

**From:** Mio Bistro [mailto:mio.bistro@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 8:55 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** coyote killing

Please end this barbaric, obscene "thrill kill". It is no thrill for the coyote and we need them to eat the rodents to stop lyme disease. It's the circle of life. This is an embarrassment to civilized humans everywhere.

**From:** Alison Clarkson  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 9:09 PM  
**To:** Lynn Andrews; Christy Ketchel; Susan Buckholz  
**Subject:** Re: H.636

When it gets to the Senate I expect to support this bill. We'll see what the Senate Committee of jurisdiction does to it.  
Alison

Alison H. Clarkson  
Vermont State Senator  
Windsor County District

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**From:** lynn andrews <[lynmisha@me.com](mailto:lynmisha@me.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Alison Clarkson; Susan Buckholz  
**Subject:** H.636

Please vote YES on bill H.636 to stop the unsafe, unnecessary and highly controversial COYOTE KILLING contests in Vermont.

An avid fan of sport hunting, Rep. Janssen Willhoit is attempting to overturn public sentiment in order to honor the blood sport desires of his friends and constituents by creating a loophole to this bill.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Andrews  
North Pomfret Resident

**From:** Linda Huebner [mailto:[lh.coyote13@gmail.com](mailto:lh.coyote13@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 9:41 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Cc:** John Gannon  
**Subject:** H.636 - please vote yes on bill, no on Willhoit Amendment

Christy,

I understand that the H.636 bill must go back to the committee due to Rep Willhoit's amendment. I hope the committee will stand by the bill that they released and reject this amendment. Exempting private coyote contest hunts will weaken the legislation considerably, since many of these egregious "hunts" are private. When people find out about them, the hunts are often cancelled, which suggests that public opinion does not support contest or bounty hunts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Linda Huebner  
Halifax, VT  
802-368-7269

**From:** Dottie Nelson [mailto:[dottienelson2@gmail.com](mailto:dottienelson2@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 10:16 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Amy Sheldon; Robin Scheu  
**Subject:** H. 636

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you vote YES on H. 636. This bill would ban coyote killing contests in Vermont. I'm also asking that you oppose the just introduced Willhoit amendment as well as any other amendments that would weaken H.636. These contests have nothing to do with sound wildlife management as the Fish & Game Dept. would have people believe. They are simply excuses for people to go out and kill. True sportsmen, ethical hunters do not support these contests. Neither do the majority of Vermonters.

Thank you for considering my request.

Dottie Nelson  
Middlebury

**From:** Dottie Nelson [mailto:dottienelson2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 7:40 AM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel; Amy Sheldon; Robin Scheu  
**Subject:** Re H.626 (an addition to my previous email)

Hello again,

I sent an email yesterday asking you to support H.626 and reject the Hillheit amendment that would weaken the bill. I'd like to add that Commissioner Louis Porter has not supported proposed humane standards for killing trapped animals (to make stomping on, bludgeoning, drowning, choking illegal) which I feel is totally unacceptable. He has also not supported mandatory reporting of animals killed out of season as well as the mandatory reporting of non-targeted animals killed in traps. It is my understanding that Commissioner Porter is required to conserve wildlife for the benefit of all Vermont residents, not just trappers and hunters (as per Vermont statute, [10 V.S.A. §4081](#)). For as long as I can remember the Fish and Wildlife Board has been run as if wildlife belongs only to the hunting/trapping community. It's time for that to change. Please vote YES on H.626 with no changes.

Thank you,  
Dottie Nelson  
Middlebury

**From:** Lisa Vear [mailto:l.vear@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 10:27 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** H.636

To the Fish and Wildlife Committee:

I am sure you feel as I do and are utterly appalled and disgusted that coyote-killing contests are not only legal but have zero limitations. It is beyond embarrassing that these shameful and senseless killing sprees occur and are unregulated and that the so-called winner is determined by who is responsible for the highest death toll. Coyotes are a vital component of Vermont's ecosystem and should not be exempt from regulations that protect wildlife from being over-hunted. In this day and age, such gluttonous, barbaric contests should be unthinkable and, furthermore, illegal. This is not intelligent wildlife management, nor does it create a safe environment for other wildlife or domestic

animals, especially dogs, that may be mistaken for a coyote and killed. This excessive, immoral activity only promotes uncivilized, primitive behavior and does not benefit anyone, be it animal or human.

It's a shame that Commissioner Porter isn't the least bit helpful in protecting Vermont's wildlife. It seems to me his only goal is pandering to hunters. Because he refuses to take any kind of action and do what is in the interest of Vermont as a whole, **please vote YES on H.636, and oppose the Willhoit amendment.**

Thank you,

Lisa Vear

**From:** Rhonda Jensen [mailto:marquette@lizzy.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 10:45 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** Coyote

Hello Christy,

Once again I am writing to you about the coyote killing contests in Vermont. It has come to my notice that the amendment by Rep. Willhoit re the ban on these contests will only serve to downgrade legislation so that ONLY those contests advertised to the public be made illegal. I ask therefor that the vote will be a YES on H.636 so that an end to this senseless killing is put in place for once and all.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Rhonda Jensen

Colchester

**From:** kate izer [mailto:kateizer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2018 11:49 PM  
**To:** Christy Ketchel  
**Cc:** Jessica Brumsted; Kate Webb  
**Subject:** House Bill H.636

Dear Representative and Fish & Wildlife Committee,

As Vermonters we are above the brutal practices of wild coyote killing contests for sport - it's beneath our respect for nature, for living things, for the wild, for utilizing resources when hunting, for our respect for the history of hunting practices & purpose

Rep. Willhoit's amendment is an embarrassment, an attempt to undermine the bill as a whole by making only those public illegal, this is wrong.

**Please vote YES on H.636 and oppose the Willhoit amendment.**

Sincerely,

Kate Izor

--

Kate Izor

[kate@kateizor.com](mailto:kate@kateizor.com)

[www.kateizor.com](http://www.kateizor.com)

From: Elizabeth Hoffman [mailto:ehoff@sover.net]

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 1:08 AM

To: David Deen; Mike Mrowicki

Cc: Christy Ketchel

Subject: H.636 - Coyote killing contests

Dear Rep. Michael Mrowicki and Rep. David Deen:

As your constituent, I am writing to let you know that I strongly support bill H.636, which would ban coyote killing contests in Vermont, and I am totally opposed to the Willhoit amendment, which would exempt coyote killing contests held by private groups.

I believe that any sort of killing contest is obscene. It encourages the absolute worst of human behavior. If you've seen the social media photos of coyote killers and the comments from their supporters, it is clear that they kill because they really enjoy killing, and they hate coyotes, perceiving them as the enemy. Time and time again they refer to coyotes as "poachers" — meaning that the deer they imagine coyotes are killing should rightfully belong only to them, the human hunters. This is a very warped view of nature. Here is a particularly creepy photo:

<https://www.facebook.com/Vermontcoyotecoexistencecoalition/photos/a.196004574155948.1073741828.153743615048711/406076089815461/?type=3&theater>

Meanwhile, there is no legitimate reason to try to exterminate coyotes.

Coyotes are a vital part of the ecosystem, serve many beneficial functions, and in any case should have as much right to live as any other creature.

As you are considering this issue, please note that Nikolas Cruz, who just gunned down 17 people on Valentine's Day, had a history of shooting animals and posting photos and bragging about it. Here's what the National Link Coalition (which studies the link between violence towards animals and violence towards people) reports:

<http://nationallinkcoalition.org/what-is-the-link/the-link-in-the-news>

The less glorification of the wanton killing of wildlife in Vermont (where we just nearly had a school shooting), the better.

I ask you to vote yes on H.636 and to oppose the Willhoit amendment and any other measures that would weaken H.636. Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hoffman

Putney VT

**From:** peggy willey [mailto:peggywilley1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018 6:23 AM  
**To:** Sarah CopelandHanzas; Christy Ketchel  
**Subject:** vote YES on H.636

vote YES on H.636, and oppose the  
Willhoit amendment, and other efforts to weaken the bill's ban on coyote  
killing contests.  
thank you, Peg Willey